

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

THANKSGIVING 2021

"I Was So Sad When I Came Here"

An abusive marriage had left her broken. But your love lifted her out of the ashes.

When they were dating, Leola noticed a few warning signs in her man. But she figured everything would turn out just fine after the wedding.

Despite her romantic optimism, nothing turned out fine. For four years, she tried to put up with his abuse. Finally, it reached a point where she had to find a safe haven.

"God has been very good to me through MorningStar."

"My mother always told me to never allow anyone to mistreat you or cuss you out," Leola says. "I couldn't take it anymore, so I left."

The divorce ended up being costly. Leola ended up with most of her possessions, but her ex ended up with the car and the house.

Suddenly homeless, Leola went to a hotel for a few weeks till she ran out of money. She made a lot of calls seeking shelter, but many were already full.

MorningStar Mission had an opening, a place just for her. She was grateful, but still living in fear, utterly defeated.



God's love — and yours — gives Leola reason to smile again!

"I was so sad when I came here," Leola says. "I wasn't just crying, I was howling. It wasn't about losing the house or the car. It was just his meanness, just pure evil. It hurt me so bad."

Fortunately, Leola was now in the right place. Thanks to the kindness of friends like you, MorningStar can be the hands and feet of Jesus, ministering to neighbors who are in deep darkness and pain. People like Leola.

The first thing she noticed was that no one at the Mission was yelling at her or using a harsh tone. After four years of that kind of abuse, a person almost comes to expect it . . . or even have come to believe they deserve it.

"I've had my moods and moments," says Leola, "but they just talk smooth and nice, all the time. They

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A Note From Sandi

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

— Psalm 139:14

People often walk through our doors feeling broken, helpless and hopeless. They've lost any sense of self-worth, stuck in a deep, dark hole.

Shattered by an abusive marriage, Leola was one of those people. At the Mission, we help rescue such people. I say "help" because the real work is God's, who created each of us "fearfully and wonderfully," as the Psalm says.

With God's help — and your loving support — Leola came to again realize her worth as a child of God created in His image.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for friends like you who make it possible for people to find hope and joy again. And I'm humbled by the opportunity to remind people of their infinite worth in Christ.

Thank you for your life-changing support!

In His service,

Sandi Perzee

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



Like you, Violet wants to help neighbors in need.

"Just Part of My Life"

Violet is wired to volunteer

If there's such a thing as a volunteering gene, Violet has it. That kind of DNA runs in her family for generations.

"It's just part of my life," she says. "My mother always volunteered, and I've done it with my own kids too, in schools and sports and things like that." And now her grandson volunteers as a mentor to children.

Violet, 74, is nearing 10 years as a faithful volunteer at MorningStar, averaging two to three days per week. She started by serving meals and now works in the warehouse.

The most rewarding part? Changed lives.

"I've met so many people who have succeeded after being addicted," says Violet, who appreciates the Christian-based programs at the Mission. "I've been fortunate enough to be involved with these experiences. You rejoice with those who succeed."

With the holidays approaching, the warehouse team is already getting items ready for families this Christmas — including items on wish lists that most of us take for granted.

"Toiletries and deodorant, or just something small for their children," Violet says. "It's very humbling. But the reward is seeing the end result, seeing the joy."

Violet shares your love for those who struggle in our community. Interested in volunteering? Go to MorningStarMission.org/volunteer/

2020 Highlights



108,959
Meals Served



14,006
Volunteer Hours



26,526
Nights of Stay



4,980
Christmas Gifts



618
Food Baskets



2,385
Counseling Sessions

Giving Thanks . . . to YOU!

Notes from friends you've helped at MorningStar.

"I have experienced a closer walk with God and have been learning how to live a clean and sober life."

— Frank D.

"I came here to learn how to deal with things going on in my life. I have also become closer with the community I serve by volunteering at the Mission. The most important thing I am grateful for is how they helped me get a better relationship with God."

— Scott R.

"GOD USED MORNINGSTAR TO TURN MY GRAVE OF A LIFE INTO A GARDEN — BY GIVING ME THE TOOLS TO HELP ME REALIZE WHERE MY HELP, MY STRENGTH AND MY HOPE COMES FROM. IT COMES FROM JESUS. MORNINGSTAR HELPED ME BUILD A FOUNDATION THAT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE."

— DARRYL M.

MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

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"I Was So Sad When I Came Here"

try to live up to their name, MorningStar. That's the name of Christ, the bright morning star."

As Leola's darkness turned into light, she began to understand her worth again.

"God has been very good to me through MorningStar," she says. "I know He brought me here. They have been wonderful to me."

Leola has found a place to live and plans to move out soon. She says she hates to leave MorningStar, "because I'm surrounded by good people here." But she also knows that the Mission was never meant to be a permanent home for anyone — just a place to get back

on one's feet and to confidently move into independence again.

She's ready, and says that's an answer to prayer.

"We have prayers every day, and when I pray, I say, 'Lord, thank You for MorningStar Mission,'" she says. "Because honestly, I don't know where I would've gone without them. I had nowhere to go."

"I'll always be grateful that MorningStar had a place for me."

This Thanksgiving, Leola is also grateful for friends like you, who pave the way for struggling neighbors to turn their lives around.

Help Make the Holidays Brighter

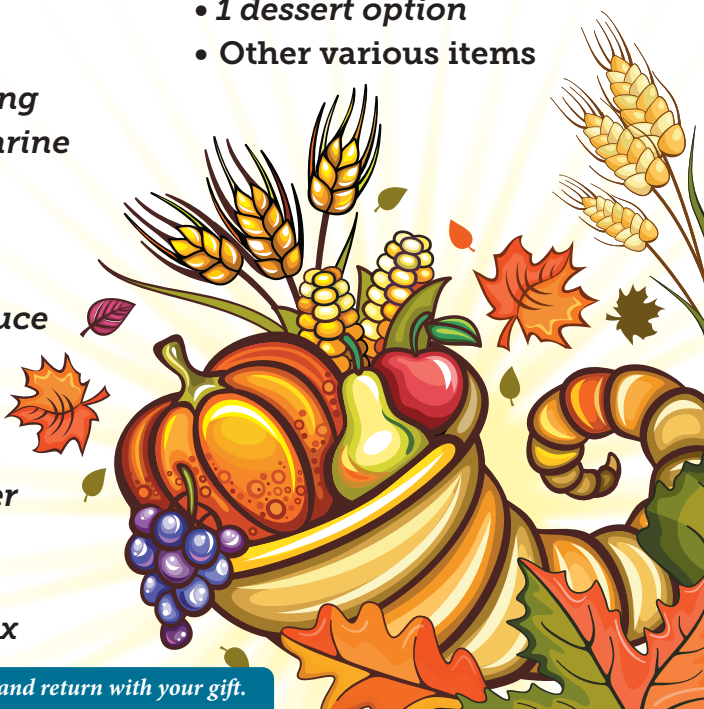
Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provide hundreds of food baskets to families in need. The holidays are especially difficult for people facing hard times and homelessness.

With your support, we can help ease the burden by providing some sustenance and hope, sharing God's love along with good food and even gifts for children.

Thank you for all that you do, and God bless you!

Thanksgiving Supplies Needed:

- 1 15–17 lb. turkey & stuffing
- 1 jar/package gravy
- 1 can cranberry sauce
- 1 pkg rolls or bread
- 2 cans vegetables
- 1 bottle salad dressing
- 1 lb. butter or margarine
- 1 bag of potatoes
- 2 cans of soup
- 1 box of spaghetti
- 1 jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1 bag of flour
- 1 bag of sugar
- 1 gallon of milk
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 jar of jelly
- 2 boxes of Jell-O
- 1 box of pancake mix
- 1 bottle of maple syrup
- 1 box of cereal
- 1 bag of candy
- 1 dessert option
- Other various items



Please cut off the reply form below, and return with your gift.

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS THANKSGIVING

Yes! I want to bring help and hope to neighbors in need this fall season. Enclosed is my heartfelt gift of:

- ☐ \$19.84 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$32.24 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$64.48 to provide 26 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much care as possible.

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous donation. Please make your check payable to MorningStar Mission. To donate online, visit MorningStarMission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 East Washington St.
Joliet, IL 60433-1150
MorningStarMission.org

IN HONOR OF

Addie Burnette – Georgelyn Hicks
Madeline Landa – Mary Mickus
The M Team – Mary Mickus
Grandma and Grandpa – Mary Mickus
All the workers and volunteers at MorningStar Mission – Diane Weber

IN MEMORY OF

Ed Cain – Patrick Byrne
Theresa Marie Chipain – Norah Larke, HR Culture Committee
Kermit & Martha Estes – Vicky Valadez
Paul Heefner – Deborah Wilke
Deacon Joe K – Nina DeBoer
Violet Kavich – James Kavich
Pat King OFS – Richard & Marilyn Kuenster
Arthur Koller Sr. – Nancy Cruz
Rick Lighton – Jerry & Gina Vinci
James McNulty III – Judith McNulty
Evelyn Merwin – Sharon Merwin
Neil Pellicci – Nina Tejkowski
Tom Perzee – Kevin & Kim Watson
Brendon Phillips – Tracy Couch
Brendon Phillips – Laurie Ramsey
Brendon Phillips – Megan Crocker
Carole Preiss – Mary Ewenson
Randy Reisner – Geraldine Hvala
Saundra Robinson – Toni Myers
John Russ – Robert Hoerner
Helen Spencer – John Wettergren
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Angela Uram – Charlene Batson
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Colleen – Maureen Lomasney

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